

Starburst

Your DOE-VPP News Source

This edition provides details concerning recent meetings of the DOE-VPP Laboratory Group and reports from LMITCO Celebration of Safety Week at INEEL.

LMITCO Celebration of Safety Week March 9-13

Final Playoffs for the First Annual INEEL SAFETY BOWL

Charlie Morecraft

CFA Fire Station (4) • Shilo Inn (2)

The results of the first annual INEEL safety bowl are in. Three winning teams will go to the VPPPA Conference in Chicago with all expenses paid. These included: RWMC Drum Bums, PBF Wrockers, and the WAC Total Safety Vultures.

Five person teams were organized at facilities in every VPP unit and several levels of competition were conducted. Playoffs were held between area winning teams. The top three teams from that round moved on to the championship round. A total of 69 teams sitewide formed to study the answers to questions about fire protection, industrial hygiene, the Voluntary Protection Program, environmental protection, self assessments, enhanced work planning, industrial safety and emergency preparedness. More than 300 questions were distributed. Over 700 people were involved with the contest.



The team structure was designed to break down communication barriers and promote esprit de corps among LMITCO, DOE, and the subcontractor community across the Site. No two players on a team could have the same job title or be from the same work group. Only one member of the team could be a foreman, supervisor, manager or director.

Charles Morecraft and other activities

On March 10 and 11, employees listened to Charles Morecraft talk about employee responsibility for safety. In conjunction with these activities, each unit Employee Safety Team is organizing specific activities during the week. A variety of exhibits, special safety meetings and lunches occurred. Over 2000 people attended the celebration.



Continued on next page

More LMITCO Celebration of Safety Week Photos!



WSSRAP Report

WSSRAP is operated under a Project Management Contract by MK Ferguson Co. and Jacobs Engineering Group. Previously, WSSRAP was a Department of the Army TNT manufacturing site before conversion by AEC into a uranium ore processing site. It was the "sister" site to Fernald with buildings and processes being identical. WSSRAP is located on 217 acres with a chemical waste processing plant, and 4 raffinate pits. It also includes a 9 acre quarry approximately 4 miles south of the main work area. WSSRAP has successfully conducted D&D on 44 buildings and removed 120,000 cubic yards of contaminated waste from the quarry.

The Weldon Spring Site Remedial Action Project (WSSRAP) has been actively working on the implementation of a

DOE-VPP program for the past 3 years. WSSRAP submitted a DOE-VPP application in mid-1997 and the DOE-VPP Team conducted an onsite review of the worksite from Nov. 17-21, 1997. The Team found that WSSRAP met all requirements for recognition as a MERIT worksite under the DOE-VPP guidelines (See WSSRAP Report on DOE-VPP home page).

Mr. Peter Brush, Acting Assistant Secretary for ES&H, presented the MERIT certificate and flag to Mr. Doug Steffen, Project Manager for MK Ferguson/Jacobs Engineering at a formal ceremony. In attendance were: Joseph Fitzgerald, DAS for Worker Health and Safety; Jim Hall, Oak Ridge Op's Office Manager; LeeAnn Elliott, Exec. Director for the VPPPA; Mr. Stephen Allred, Pres. of Environ. and Gov't. Operations, Morrison Knudsen; Mr. Robert Siek, V. Pres. for Environ. Op., Jacobs Eng.; Mr. Carmine Barone, Asst. Reg. Admin. OSHA Reg. 7; Mr. Robert Geller, Chief of Fed. Facilities, Missouri Dept. of Natural Res.; Mr. Lee Brittenham, Superintendent of St. Charles Co. schools; Mr. Dan Wall, Dir. of Superfund Div., US EPA; Mr. Ray Allison, Dir. US Corp of Engineers; Mr. Brad Heacock, Mgr. Allied-Signal, KC; and regional businesses agents from 5 different unions. Total attendance was approximately 450 people.

Executive Summary of Lab Group White Paper

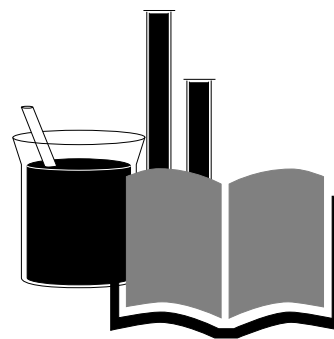
Committee History

At the "Voluntary Protection Programs in DOE Laboratories" workshop, held in New Orleans in December 1996, the DOE Office of Worker Health and Safety (EH-5), through their DOE-VPP Champions Team, approached several National Laboratories to explore their interest in implementing the DOE-VPP initiative. As a result of this initial discussion, an ad hoc working group of National Laboratory safety and health professionals, scientists, union representatives and DOE staff decided to further meet and discuss the concept. A follow-up meeting was held in March 1997. This meeting became the springboard that triggered further interest in and commitment to explore DOE-VPP among the National Laboratories in attendance. As a result of this meeting, the DOE National Laboratories Voluntary Protection Program (DOE-VPP) Committee was formed to study the feasibility of seeking VPP recognition at all the National Laboratories. Committee members participated in bi-weekly conference calls, a DOE-VPP training workshop in Germantown on April 28-29, 1997 and the Voluntary Protection Program Participants Association Annual Conference in New Orleans September 9-12, 1997. Support and participation from DOE staff members included individuals assigned to EH, DP, and field offices.

The DOE-VPP (Department of Energy Voluntary Protection Program), initiated in 1994, promotes programmatic safety and health excellence through cooperative efforts among workers, management and government at DOE contractor sites. DOE has also formed partnerships with other federal agencies and the private sector for both advancing and sharing its VPP experience and to prepare for the challenges the department will face in the next century.

The DOE National Laboratories Voluntary Protection Program Committee was created in March of 1997, to investigate the barriers to implementing VPP at National Laboratories. Activities of the committee were initiated through the efforts of the DOE Office of Worker Health and Safety (EH-5). All ten National Laboratories, along with EH and DP, and Pantex as a mentor, are represented on the committee. The charter of this committee is:

- To investigate the merits of VPP as they apply to the National Laboratories;
- To utilize available resources, including both documents and personnel;
- To be the catalyst for promoting the elements of VPP;
- To define the strategy for success in VPP; and
- To implement/integrate the VPP elements with existing Laboratory processes.



Between March and November 1997, the committee completed two self-identified tasks: a crosswalk of ISMS and DOE-VPP, and a self assessment of DOE-VPP implementation at the National Laboratories. These efforts are summarized in this White Paper.

Conclusions

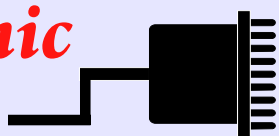
There are many potential benefits for the National Laboratories to implement the DOE-VPP programs. There are challenges for implementing VPP at National Laboratories such as the Department of Energy Acquisition Regulations (DEAR) clause mandate to implement ISMS and other competing DOE and non-DOE initiatives such as ISO 14001, Responsible Care and others.

There are opportunities for change in DOE oversight of National Laboratories.

The crosswalk of ISMS and DOE-VPP study by the committee has demonstrated that while these initiatives are not identical, they share many similar elements and that by implementing ISMS many of the VPP elements will also be implemented.

Seven of the ten Laboratories participated in a self-assessment survey which showed similar trends across the Laboratories. In general, the Laboratories perform relatively well in the following VPP elements: worksite analysis, hazard prevention and control, and training. The Laboratories are doing less well in management leadership and employee involvement.

DOE-VPP Electronic Times



Carlos Coffman will be the new Point of Contact for the revised DOE VPP Home Page, <http://tis-nt.eh.doe.gov/Vpp/>. Your ideas and comments for improving our home page will be appreciated. You may contact Carlos at carlos.coffman@eh.doe.gov, or 301-903-6439.

Other links of interest on employee involvement include:

- An interesting questionnaire can be found at www.mint-net/oshcom/question.htm. These anonymous surveys have been collected from companies all over New England.
- An Employment Policy Foundation study found strong evidence that employee involvement enhances productivity and real wage growth. See epf.org/pr960516.htm.
- Interested in safety and health programs and employee involvement, visit www.dol.gov/dol/_sec/public/media/reports/dunlop/section7.htm.
- If you need to identify or clarify a situation, standard or regulation applicable to respirators, consider using The DOE Worker Safety and Health Standards Policy Line Web Site at <http://tis-nt.eh.doe.gov/whs/policy>.

**"The real learning is in failure.
The biggest barrier is blame."**

Andy Grove, Intel

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Richardson, Margaret R. **Managing Worker Safety and Health for Excellence**. 1997. Van Nostrand Reinhold.

Ruttenberg, Ruth. **The role of labor-management committees in safeguarding worker safety and health**. 1989. U.S. Dept. Of Labor, Bureau of Labor-Management Relations and Cooperative Programs.

Laboratory DOE-VPP Plans

From March 9th - 11th, Joel Wong (LLNL), Jeff Chung (LBNL), Barbara Hargis, Dina Sassone (LANL), Dick Stelle (SNL) and Steve Hoey (BNL) presented the findings of the Lab Group's white paper to Joe Fitzgerald and Peter Brush (Acting DOE Assistant Secretary for Environmental, Safety and Health) and other DOE program officials. The Group cross-walked VPP with ISMS and conducted a VPP self-assessment survey. In all there were 5 presentations to DOE representatives. The following is a partial list of DOE personnel reached:

Joe Fitzgerald (EH-5); Peter Brush (EH-1); Dick Crowe (DP-20); Mike Kilpatrick (EH-22) Milt Johnson (ER-80); Emil Morrow (DP-2); Charles O'Dell (EM-4); Gary Staffo (EE-60) John Psaras (EM-4); Charles Billups (ER-83); Matt Cole (ER-83); Micheal Teresinski (ER-83); Ted Tomzak (ER-83); Milt Johnson (ER-80)

Joe Fitzgerald and Peter Brush were highly supportive of the White Paper, and Peter will sign a memo to the Lab Directors and the PSOs in support of the Lab Group's project. The ER people were also supportive.

Some of the final recommendations in the white paper were:

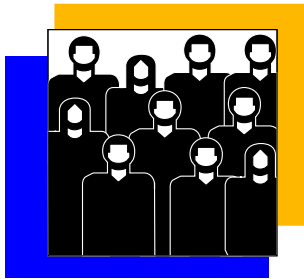
DOE should develop a common and consistent vision for worker health and safety, showing departmental support of VPP

DOE should tailor appropriate oversight based on a level of safety and health performance, thus reinventing health and safety oversight

DOE and the National Laboratories should develop an integrated plan for enhancing worker H&S programs. This plan will build on the ISMS platform by demonstrating how the VPP tenets support maximum implementation of ISMS

The Group will continue to develop more tools for the implementation of DOE-VPP at their labs and will develop a "canned" presentation for management briefings. Letters to DOE program management and lab directors are in progress. Subcommittees on defining on-site VPP evaluation criteria for laboratories and on developing a canned presentation are being formed.

Happenings



LARGE/ACTIVE SITE CUSTOMERS

Idaho is anticipating submitting their application to EH-5 this year. In the spring they held a LMITCO Safety Week. See pp. 1 and 2.

Westinghouse/Bechtel (Savannah River Site) DOE-VPP status continues to be on hold. They were certified as ISO 14001 recently.

Wackenhut Services, Inc. (Savannah River Site) has submitted an application to EH Headquarters.

NATIONAL LABS

A core group is working together under the leadership of Joel Wong (510-424-6985) to promote voluntary protection programs at the national laboratories. See p. 4.

CLEANUP SITES

The Group's second meeting was held on November 6 and 7 at the East Tennessee Technology Park. After a tour and briefing on the East Tennessee Technology Park, the Cleanup Sites Group worked on a charter and work plan. The Charter and Work plan are still under review.

West Valley Nuclear Services, West Valley Field Office, and NYSERDA sponsored a safety fair in June for West Valley workers..

MK-Ferguson at the Weldon Spring Site Remedial Action Project (WSSRAP) located in St. Charles, Missouri received an onsite evaluation on November 13-15. They were recognized as a Merit Site in an official ceremony on April 9th. See p. 2.

STAR/Merit

WIPP has been recommended for ISO 14001 certification. The plant is scheduled to open in May 1998.

HEADQUARTERS

VPPA NEWS:

The next VPPA Conference is being planned for Chicago in August. In *The Leader* (the VPPA magazine), look for a speech presented by Manuel Mederos of the IBEW Safety and Health Department.

Best Practices

(This new column will highlight the best practices that reflect the DOE-VPP tenets.)



Best Practices in the DOE-VPP Laboratory

Photograph scientists doing things safely and post on bulletin board

List names of scientists working the 'safest'

Force scientist to describe safe procedures he will use before granting any money

Mandate scientist involvement on lab safety committees

Have scientists review safety procedures as part of job description

Have scientist give a safety talk at a monthly all-hands meeting

Community outreach, such as coloring contest, give-aways and safety fair

Publicity through local community newspapers and facility publications

Work clearance permits for non-routine work

Vehicle classes for traffic violators

Double honk when backing up a vehicle

Auto safety covered in initial orientation

"Open door" and employee concerns program

Employee hazard identification teams

Employee incentives, such as awards, store coupons, credit time for safe work, etc.

Safety observers

Management awards

Mentoring

Calendar

September 16, 1998 - The DOE-HQ Health Fair at Forrestal and Germantown locations

Send contributions to the editor

Editor: Carlos Coffman

301-903-6493 • FAX 301-903-2239

carlos.coffman@eh.doe.gov

